

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EA-07 /088 W

----- 003084

R 181200Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1154

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0478

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SU, US, UR

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

BEGIN SUMMARY. ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS, NIMEIRI HAS EXHIBITED CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH IN WELL PUBLICIZED REMARKS ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HE PROCLAIMED NATIONAL UNITY AND POLITICAL STABILITY, SET DEVELOPMENT AS PRIMARY GOAL, DECREED FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION, PROMISED GREATER GOS AND SSU CONTROL OVER MEDIA, AND ORDERED CONTINUING EXAMINATION OF CIVIL SERVANTS' PERFORMANCE. ONLY DEVIATION FOR OTHERWISE FORWARD THRUST WAS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PLANS TO INSTITUTE MILITARY CONSCRIPTION AND ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE. ON FOREIGN POLICY, NIMEIRI SAID RELATIONS WITH US AND USSR IMPROVING, RESTATED GOS SUPPORT FOR MPLA IN STRONG TERMS, AND EXPRESSED CONTINUING CONCERN OVER WESTERN SAHARA. GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT IS WAKE OF GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE NIMEIRI IS FULLY IN COMMAND, AFTER MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY SINCE SEPTEMBER 5 COUP ATTEMPT. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 14 FOLLOWING SWEARING-IN OF NEW MINISTERS AND IN FEBRUARY 15 ADDRESS TO SSU POLITBURO AND CABINET, BOTH PROMINENTLY COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HELD FORTH ON BROAD RANGE OF NATIONAL POLICY INTERESTS AND GOALS. US-SUDANESE RELATIONS, HE SAID, ARE IMPROVING, WITNESS THE "CONTRIBUTION OF AMERICA" TO PROJECTS INVOLVING OIL EXPLORATION, ASBESTOS, CEMENT AND BATTERIES. RUSSIANS ALSO CAME IN FOR PRAISE FOR RECENT, MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT. NIMEIRI SAID THAT A HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC DELEGATION WILL VISIT USSR DURING (SIC) THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS TO DISCUSS "PROJECTS" INCLUDING HOSPITALS, SILOS, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, AND THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS AND THE REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. NIMEIRI MOVED GOS ONE BIG STEP CLOSER TO FULL IDENTIFICATION WITH MPLA, WHICH, HE CLAIMED, "HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT LIBERATION IN THE WORLD AND OPPOSE ALL PATTERNS OF IMPERIALISM." FINAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFERENCE WAS TO LACK OF REPLY FROM ARAB LEAGUE TO NIMEIRI'S CALL FOR MEETING ON WESTERN SAHARA (KHARTOUM 334 NOTAL).

3. NIMEIRI DECLARED THAT POLITICAL STABILITY HAS WITHSTOOD ALL COUP ATTEMPTS AND THAT NATIONAL UNITY, CREATED OUT OF THE 1972 ADDIS ACCORDS (WITH WHICH NIMEIRI'S NAME CLOSELY ASSOCIATED), HAS DEFEATED RACIAL AND TRIBAL DISSIDENCE. NIMEIRI MADE CLEAR THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS PRIMARY NATIONAL GOAL AND THAT FOCUS WILL BE ON "AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION".

4. NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MINISTRY OF PEOPLE'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PLACEMENT OF THE NEW MINISTER OF STATE FOR THAT FUNCTION UNDER HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION. THE AIM, HE SAID, IS THE "TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MASSES", TO BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH GIVING BROAD SUPERVISORY POWERS TO THE PROVINCES IN MATTERS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

5. THE MEDIA ARE TO BE EXAMINED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY "REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE SSU'S MASSES". YET MORE CLEARLY, NIMEIRI SAID GOS MUST "PREPARE THE CITIZENS THROUGH THE INFORMATION MEDIA TO ACCEPT AND COPE WITH THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT ANTICIPATED IN ALL FIELDS, BEGINNING WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION FOR UNIFYING AND MOBILIZING THE CITIZENS...."

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6. NIMEIRI INSTRUCTED MINISTERS TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE OF CIVIL SERVANTS AT ALL LEVELS WITH A VIEW TO WEEDING OUT THOSE FOUND WANTING, AND HE FORECAST THE RESULT WHEN TELLING THE PRESS THAT CHANGES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL CONTINUE.

7. FINALLY, NIMEIRI CONCEDED THAT PLANS TO BEGIN MILITARY CONSCRIPTION HAD

BEEN DROPPED FOR THE DURATION AS TOO COSTLY AND THAT  
ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE FOR STUDENTS COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED  
THIS ACADEMIC YEAR OWING TO INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION.

8. COMMENT. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO SHOW "BALANCE" IN GOS RELATIONS  
WITH BOTH SUPER-POWERS, NIMEIRI NEGLECTED TO DISTINGUISH  
BETWEEN USG ASSISTANCE AND ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF AMERICAN FIRMS.  
WITH RESPECT TO USSR, THE CENTRAL THEME IS STILL CONTINUED  
RELIANCE ON SOVIET COOPERATION TO KEEP THE ARMED FORCES BOTH FIT  
AND CONTENT. WE SUSPECT THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS, WHO ARE MAKING  
SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT  
SCHEMES, AND CHINESE, WHO INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY  
AREAS, WILL GRUMBLE OVER NIMEIRI'S FAILURE TO ACCORD THEM EVEN  
HONORABLE MENTION. ON ANGOLA, NIMEIRI APPEARS TO HAVE ABANDONED  
EARLIER EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE OF RECONCILIATION AMONG THREE FACTIONS.  
WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT REFERENCE TO "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES"  
(PARA 2 ABOVE) IS AT LEAST A TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET  
AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA.

9. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, NIMEIRI SEEMS INTENT ON MAKING THE SYSTEM  
MORE RESPONSIVE TO HIS WILL. WHILE THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
ON A SHORT LEASH, THEY ARE NOW MORE LIKELY TO SERVE A GREATER  
PROPAGANDA, OR "EDUCATIONAL", ROLE THAN HERETOFORE. CIVIL SERVANTS  
WHO CAN BE PENSIONED OFF AT ANY STAGE WITHOUT RIGHT OF APPEAL,  
ARE ALL EFFECTIVELY ON PROBATION; WITH MINISTERS UNDER ORDERS TO  
CLEAN HOUSE, MORE HEADS ARE BOUND TO ROLL. AS FOR DECENTRALIZATION,  
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL APPARATUS ARE  
EQUAL TO FORMIDABLE TASKS INVOLVED.

10. OVERALL IMPRESSION THAT NIMEIRI IS NO DOUBT TRYING TO CREATE  
IS ONE OF ENERGETIC, TECHNICALLY COMPETENT REGIME MOVING FORWARD  
FROM POST-COUP ATTEMPT PERIOD TO MEET THE COUNTRY'S PRESSING  
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DEVELOPMENT CHANNENGES. BREWER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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